

Japanese Bank

4427. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether five Japanese banks have recently applied to the Indian Government for setting up banks in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import Tariffs

4428. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister for the state in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank is pressuring India to reduce the import tariffs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of reduction in import tariff on revenue collections; and

(d) the alternate sources of revenue on account of lower tariffs on imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Policy making is the sovereign right of the Government of India and there is no question of the World Bank or any other external agency exerting pressure on the Government of India to accept its suggestions. However, World Bank in its Country Economic Memorandum 1996 has indicated that it will be important for India to continue to lower tariffs to be able to compete with the more open economies of East Asia, Latin America and the emerging European former socialist economies and also to provide a stronger foundation to India's growth process.

ADB Loan for Economic Reforms in Gujarat

4429. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question no. 1173 dated the February 28, 1997 regarding ADB loan to Gujarat and state :

(a) whether the said programme is likely to be implemented in some other States of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Asian Development Bank is exploring the possibilities of assisting some of the other States through reform based lending. The States and programme content will be known after these are firmed up by the ADB.

Mahila Courts in U.P.

4430. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the number of Mahila Courts set up in Uttar Pradesh, locationwise during the last three years to deal with the cases related to crimes against women ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statutory Auditors

4431. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to take comprehensive examination of the role of statutory auditors in banks,

(b) whether a number of guidelines have been issued to various banks in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a number of conditions have been imposed that the current auditors should directly report to the Central Bank the shortcomings in compliance by the banks; and

(e) if so, to what extent this directive has been implemented by the banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that in terms of guidelines issued by RBI, banks have been instructed to ask auditors to verify, as part of statutory audit of banks, compliance with SLR requirements under Section 24 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 on 12 odd dates in different months spread over the entire year not being